

Continued

Not Adopted

No. 8745

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NOT ADOPTED by the General Assembly. This resolution would have limited General Board action on General Assembly resolutions to listing reasons for and against adoption.

No. 8745

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE
FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States are free, democratic countries in which the unobstructed and lively exchange of ideas and views is encouraged; and

WHEREAS, church bodies of these countries have full opportunity to act openly with regard to policies, finances, and personnel; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of the congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada are intelligently aware of issues before the General Assembly and feel undue pressure when given recommendations by the General Board on how to vote on these issues; and

WHEREAS, The Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) states that items of business to be considered by the General Assembly are to be reviewed by the General Board and referred to the General Assembly "with appropriate recommendations" Article III, Section A, Paragraph 17 and Article III, Section B, Paragraph 21 (a); and

WHEREAS, the Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly state that "the General Board may recommend to the General Assembly that a 'Resolution' or 'Definition of Policy' be adopted, not adopted, or referred to a designated place for further investigation" (Article II, Section E); and

WHEREAS, recommendations from the General Board to the General Assembly that business items be adopted; not adopted, referred or that substitute resolutions replace those submitted by congregations or other groups are inappropriate on issues which are controversial and on which sincere Christians may have honest differences of opinion, even as recommendations on how citizens should vote on issues submitted to the electorate would be inappropriate from a parliament, congress, or provincial or state legislature; and

WHEREAS, an appropriate recommendation from the General Board to the General Assembly on a controversial issue would be that the Assembly delegates consider certain points, both pro and con, and then vote according to the dictates of their Christians consciences, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting at Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-21, 1987, to amend the Special Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly, Article II, Section E to read, "The General Board may recommend to the General assembly arguments in favor of and not in favor of a 'Resolution' or 'Definition of Policy,' and may not submit a 'Substitute Resolution' without the approval of the body who submit the resolution."

#8745

Official Board-Rocklane Christian Church, Greenwood, Indiana
First Christian Church of Lovington-Lovington, Illinois
Cameron Christian Church-Cameron, Illinois
First Christian Church-Irvine, Kentucky
Central Christian Church-Columbia, Tennessee
Millville Christian Church-Millville, Pennsylvania
First Christian Church-Decatur, Illinois
First Christian Church-New Sharon, Iowa
Broad Street Christian Church-New Bern, North Carolina
Hyde Park Christian Church-Austin, Texas
Coachella Valley Christian Church-Indio, California
Central Christian Church-Marble Falls, Texas
First Christian Church-Beloit, Kansas
First Christian Church-Lake Worth, Florida

The General Board recommends that the General Assembly NOT ADOPT Resolution No. 8745 for the following reasons:

1. This resolution would deny the role assigned to the General Board to "receive, review and refer to the General Assembly with appropriate recommendations all items of business presented" (paragraph 21 (a) of *The Design*. While the resolution refers to "controversial issues", the rule would apply to all items of business.

2. The pro-con statements following Resolution No. 8714 are also applicable to this business item.

(Debate time 12 minutes)